

### INFANT MORTALITY.

The seventh annual meeting of the American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality will be held in Milwaukee, October 19-21, 1916. A number of very interesting subjects have been arranged for this meeting and undoubtedly it will be a very well attended session. Those who are interested in the subjects of pediatrics, vital statistics or infant mortality, can secure programs and full information in regard to the meeting by addressing the Executive Secretary, 1211 Cathedral street, Baltimore, Maryland.

### SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

It is a great pleasure to announce the receipt of a letter from the editor of the *Scientific American*, in which he states that the lucubrations of Mr. Topliff, previously referred to in the *STATE JOURNAL*, are not in any way to be considered as emanating from the *Scientific American*, nor would that publication recognize the views set forth by this gentleman. It seemed strange that such a publication would allow this sort of material to go out under its name, and it is a great pleasure to state, on the assurance of the editor of the *Scientific American*, that the use of the name of that publication by the gentleman in question was entirely unauthorized.

### WARNING!

The following warning has been sent out by W. B. Saunders Company. In addition to what they say, we can add that either this particular fraud, or some other, is now at work in California using the name of "The Progressive Department of the University of California." Of course there is no such department and the whole thing is a fake.

We are advised that a very clever swindle is being worked by a young man calling on physicians in various sections of the country. He is fraudulently soliciting orders and collecting money for subscriptions to medical journals and for medical books published by various firms. He usually represents himself as a student, working his way through college and trying to get a number of votes to help him win a certain contest. He sometimes uses the names of L. D. Grant, H. E. Peters, R. A. Douglas and F. C. Schneider, and he usually gives a receipt bearing the heading of some Society or Association, such as United Students' Aid Society; the Alumni Educational League; the American Association for Education, etc.

The description given of this swindler is: Young man of the Jewish type, rather slender, with very dark hair combed straight back, and shows his teeth plainly when talking.

The whole scheme is a fraud. The Societies mentioned do not exist. The idea is to collect money by offering special discounts and prices on medical books and journals and skip with the money.

This young man does not represent W. B. Saunders Company, whose name he frequently uses. He is a fraudulent subscription agent, and physicians, generally, should be on the lookout for him.

### MALPRACTICE RULES.

Again must our members be warned to take particular notice of two very important rules made by the Society in regard to medical defense.

First, in all cases of fracture or injury to bones, joints and the like, an X-ray *plate* must be *made and kept*. The Society will not defend an action against a member arising out of such an accident or condition, where the member has not made *and kept* an X-ray *plate*, unless he offers a most satisfactory explanation of the reason why this was not done. During the last few years the *JOURNAL* has repeatedly warned the members of the Society that the time is quickly coming when courts will hold that the not taking of an X-ray plate is negligence. It is safe to prophesy that, although no court has up to the time of writing made such a definite ruling, some supreme court will rule in that way within the next two or three years. Several decisions have come very close to announcing this doctrine. Recently two members have been obliged to defend two suits at their own expense because of failure to comply with this rule.

Second, the matter of suing for the collection of an account within one year after the services were rendered. The Society will not defend a cross-complaint arising out of such a suit for collection, unless the member who wishes to bring the suit presents the case to the Council of the State Society and receives permission from the Council to proceed. Within the last two months three members have been obliged to defend actions of this character against them at their own expense.

Suits for damages for alleged malpractice against physicians are steadily increasing, and no single week passes without such a suit arising; in one week quite recently five suits were filed against members of this Society. In view of this condition of things, it is imperative that our members take every precaution to prevent the possibility of suits arising, and to make it practicable to defend them when they do arise. It is frequently a very difficult thing to prepare the defense in some of these actions, and when this has to be done without complete records in the doctor's possession the task becomes very much more difficult.

### PURELY PERSONAL.

It is very seldom that the editor of this publication indulges in personal references to himself, but in view of the fact that certain members of the Society go out of their way to criticize the editor, not for what he does or says, but because he sometimes calls attention to certain unpleasant *facts*, the following letter indicating a welcome amount of appreciation, is published:

July 17, 1916.

My dear Doctor:

Enclosed find my check and note. I consider the plan a very sound one indeed, and trust enough members will come in to create a